



The President's Daily Brief

4 November 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

China's fourth commentary this week about Vietnam implies anxiety about the peace negotiations.
(Page 1)

The Soviets [redacted] West 25X1
German [redacted] (Page 2) 25X1

Government forces have recaptured recently lost towns in southern Laos. (Page 3)

The Soviets [redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

[redacted] Chinese [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] (Page 3) 25X1

The French Air Force is now in possession of tactical nuclear bombs. (Page 3)

[redacted] West Germany [redacted] 25X1
[redacted]
(Page 3) 25X1

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CHINA-VIETNAM

In their strongest attack yet on the US position regarding a Vietnam settlement, the Chinese have charged that Washington is stalling in order to re-negotiate the "basic content" of an agreement it already had accepted. Peking's commentary, its fourth this week on Vietnam, appeared in People's Daily over the authoritative signature "Commentator" on 3 November. Commentator asserted that the "half-dozen or so points" referred to by Dr. Kissinger last week "are by no means trivial" but are central to a settlement. Because they mesh with President Thieu's main objections, Commentator argued that the US is using Thieu as the cutting edge of its own efforts to "revise all the principal articles in the text of the agreement"--an accord that Peking claims the US accepted in official notes to Hanoi in late October.

This statement sharpens the divergence between Peking and Moscow, which has been markedly more equivocal. Peking's earlier statements also implied anxiety about the state of play in the negotiations, but Commentator on 3 November said flat out that "if the US plan is successful...there will hardly be any prospect of restoring peace in Vietnam." As in earlier commentary, however, Peking's latest statement avoided ruling out further negotiations.

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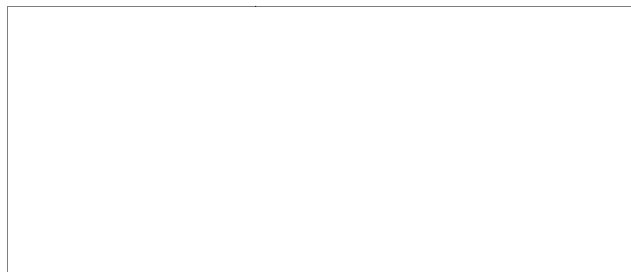
USSR - WEST GERMANY



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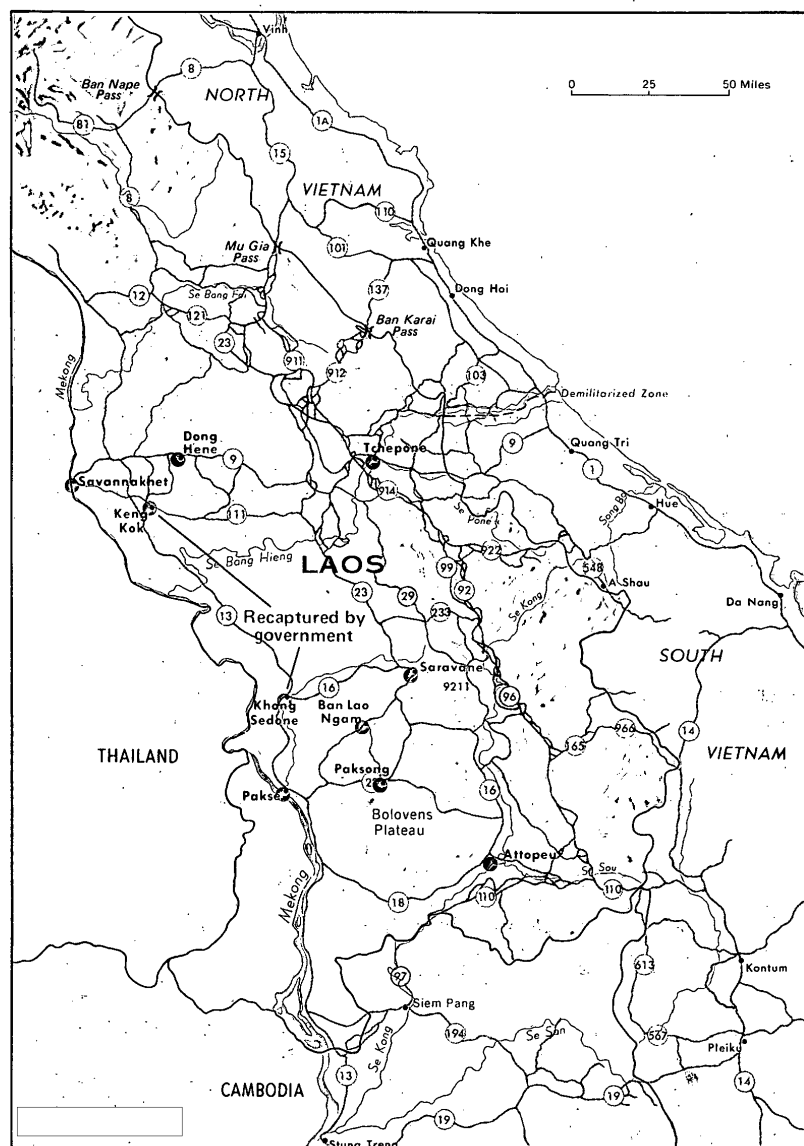


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NOTES

Laos: Government forces have recouped most of their recent losses in the south. On 2 November a five-battalion irregular task force recaptured Keng Kok, a village about 30 miles southeast of Savanna-khet, after three days of close combat. The two battalions of North Vietnamese troops that over-ran Keng Kok last weekend have apparently withdrawn to the east to regroup and resupply. In the southern panhandle, Lao Army units met no opposition in reoccupying the provincial capital of Khong Sedone.

USSR: [REDACTED]

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China: [REDACTED]

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France: Early last month the French Air Force received its first tactical nuclear weapons, according to a recent statement to Parliament by Defense Minister Debré.

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Debré stated that the Jaguar tactical fighter may also carry nuclear bombs when it is introduced into service in early 1973.

West Germany: [REDACTED]

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